

Local Boards or Village Panchayets for charitable purposes or public purposes from which the Municipality or Local Body concerned does not derive any profit—such as roads, hospitals, dispensaries, rest houses, etc.”

5. As regards the assessment on lands acquired and appropriated for purposes of Municipal Councils, Local Boards and Village Panchayets, Government do not see any reason to waive it whatever be the purpose for which the lands are made use of by the Municipalities or Local Boards. The practice of levying assessment annually or in a lumpsum equivalent to 25 times the assessment will be continued.

K. V. ANANTARAMAN,
Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.

PUBLIC WORKS SECRETARIAT.

Administration Report of the Public Works Department.

READ—

Administration Report of the Public Works Department for the year 1923-24, received from the Chief Engineer of Mysore, with his letter No. 6700, dated the 1st November 1924.

ORDER NO. P. W. 2477-83, DATED 17TH FEBRUARY 1925.

Recorded.

2. *Personnel*.—Mr. J. Bhore continued to be Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, in the Irrigation Branch, till 12th February 1924, when he was made combined Chief Engineer for Irrigation and Roads and Buildings and divested of Secretariat functions. Mr. H. D. Rice was Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, for Roads and Buildings. The latter officer, who had proceeded on furlough in April 1923, returned on 12th November 1923 and again proceeded on combined furlough for five months and twelve days with effect from the 13th February 1924, preparatory to retirement. Mr. K. R. Seshachar was Officiating Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, for Roads and Buildings, till 12th November 1923 and was appointed Special Officer and Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works, from 1st January 1924, and as Secretary to Government, Public Works and Electrical Departments, in addition to the above duties from 13th February 1924.

Rajasabhabhushana Mr. S. Cadambi continued to be Special Officer and Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works, till 31st December 1923, when he proceeded on two months' leave preparatory to retirement.

3. *Administrative Measures*.—The two independent administrative offices, one for Irrigation and the other for Roads and Buildings, constituted as a result of the Reorganisation of the Department in September 1922, were amalgamated, as a measure of economy, from 13th February 1924 and placed under the charge of one Chief Engineer who was made an administrative officer with no Secretariat functions. These functions, including those relating to the Electrical Department, were assigned to a separate Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, and Mr. K. R. Seshachar (who had been posted Special Officer, Krishnarajasagara Works) was appointed Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, including the Electrical Department as well as Krishnarajasagara, of which he continued to be in charge as the chief administrative officer as a special case.

The powers that were being exercised by the Chief Engineer were revised in view of the formation of a separate Secretariat.

4. *Grant and Outlay*.—The final grant for the Department under all heads for the year under review was Rs. 43,88,125, against which an outlay of Rs. 40,91,998 was incurred, resulting in a lapse of Rs. 2,96,127. Including the outlay of Rs. 2,19,540 incurred from sources, such as, contributions, etc., the total expenditure of the Department was Rs. 43,11,538.

The lapse under Irrigation Works was Rs. 53,303 and is stated to be due to want of rain in some Districts and to failure on the part of old contractors of minor tank works and inadequacy of rates provided in the estimates. The lapse under Civil Works, which amounted to Rs. 1,94,367, is attributed to dearth of suitable building contractors, stoppage of work due to changes in design, scarcity of labour, etc.

The causes mentioned for the heavy lapse are the usual ones and it is hoped that more efficient arrangements will be made in future to avoid such heavy lapses.

5. *Irrigation Works*.—The expenditure incurred under irrigation works was Rs. 2,43,936, against the grant of Rs. 2,72,000.

There were heavy lapses under Irrigation also. It is imperative that efficient arrangements should be made for such works and lapses avoided in future.

6. *Water Works*.—(i) *Chamarajendra Water Works, Bangalore*.—The outlay on these works including establishment charges amounted Rs. 2,02,880, the amount charged to State Funds being Rs. 50,133. 1,317 million gallons were pumped from the City and the Civil and Military Station head-works as against 1,146 million gallons during the previous year, and 1,178 million gallons of filtered water were supplied from the Combined Jewell Filters to the City and the Civil and Military Station reservoirs. 565 million gallons of water were consumed in the City, the average consumption being 13 gallons per head per day against 12.8 gallons during the previous year. This is attributed to the increased facilities afforded by the improvements made in the City Distribution System, as also to the increasing number of house connections, which rose up from 3,939 to 4,338 during the year.

The work of laying water mains and sub-mains in the Visvesvarapuram Extension was practically completed. In order to meet the increasing demand for water supply to the City and the Civil and Military Station, the work of duplicating the duct from the lake to the Pumping Station and the rising main from the Pumping Station to the Combined Jewell Filters may have to be taken up eventually.

The arrears of excess water charges to be collected still remain large and effective steps require to be taken to ensure their early recovery.

(ii) *Vani Vilas Water Works, Mysore*.—The expenditure on these works, including establishment charges amounted to Rs. 1,24,664, and the revenue derived from the Mysore City Municipality, excess water consumption, sale of water, and meter hire was Rs. 78,920. The net amount charged to State Funds was Rs. 45,744. 612 million gallons of water were pumped during the year against 552 million gallons in the previous year. The daily average consumption in the City was 19.72 gallons per head against 17.8 gallons during the previous year, which is excessive. The number of house service connections increased during the year from 2,399 to 2,570. An estimate amounting to Rs. 4,34,000 was sanctioned for duplicating the pumps at the Belagola Pumping Station and renewing a portion of the main and for erecting two new filter units in order to cope with the increasing demand for water supply in the City. The arrears that remained to be collected on account of excess water charges amounted to Rs. 23,997 at the end of June 1924, and prompt steps should be taken to collect the amount outstanding at a very early date.

(iii) *Kolar Gold Fields Water Works*.—Three hundred and ninety-seven million gallons were pumped during the year, and the maintenance charges amounted Rs. 1,32,263. The receipts from the Water Works amounted to Rs. 2,21,479 against the budgetted revenue of Rs. 2,30,000. With a view to achieve better results of analysis, a chlorination plant was installed at the works.

(iv) Improvements were also effected during the year in connection with water supply to the towns of Chikmagalur, Chintamani, Kolar and Koppa. The project for water supply to Tumkur Town costing Rs. 4,72,000, which was under investigation during the year, was recently sanctioned by Government.

Due to failure of timely rain in certain parts of the State and the consequent fall in the water level of the Bethamangala tank, the question of adequate supply was causing some anxiety; however, timely precautionary measures were taken till the situation eased by the tank receiving freshes.

7. *Civil Buildings*.—The expenditure incurred on the construction of, or improvements to, buildings during the year amounted to Rs. 4,53,466 against the grant of Rs. 4,22,750 resulting in an excess of Rs. 30,716. The principal works that were either completed or in progress were—

(1) Providing sanitary fittings to the Public Office buildings at Bangalore, (2) improvements to the Government House at Mysore in connection with the Viceregal Visit, (3) constructing Science Laboratory to the Collegiate High School at Bangalore, (4) constructing a hostel to the High School at Channapatna, (5) constructing Anglo-Vernacular School at Shimoga, (6) constructing out-patient ward to the Victoria Hospital at Bangalore, (7) constructing additional wards and Operation Theatre for the Civil Hospital at Chikmagalur, (8) constructing New Palace Office Block at Mysore, (9) constructing south gate of the Mysore Fort, and, (10) constructing New Guests' Mansion at Mysore.

A sum of Rs. 1,57,395 was spent on repairs to buildings. The grants for annual repairs being low on account of financial stringency, such repairs had to be confined only to important buildings. The question of increasing the percentage limit fixed for annual repairs in the case of buildings, which is reported to be inadequate, will be taken up as soon as financial conditions permit.

8. *Communications*.—An outlay of Rs. 27,310 was incurred on original works and Rs. 5,83,688 on repairs, including the repairs of 1st and 2nd class Travellers' Bungalows. The important works that were either completed or in progress were—

(1) Improving and widening Tarikere-Mangalore road, (2) improving and extending Talguppa-Aralgode road, (3) constructing bridges on Tirthahalli-Hulikal road, and (4) improvements to Jog Falls.

The total length of Provincial roads maintained during the year was 2,061 miles. No grant for the special repairs of roads could be sanctioned during the year on account of financial stringency.

Government ordered, while reviewing the Administration Report of the Department for the year 1922-23, that the question of the introduction of the system of lumpsum contracts in the different parts of the State should be taken up seriously. The system, it is reported, was largely adopted in the Kadur District with useful results. A similar trial should be given in the other Districts, and a report as to how it has worked should be submitted for the information of Government. Detailed proposals based on the general principles approved by Government in connection with the separation of the annual grant on roads into grant under maintenance and under special recoats of furlongs, should be submitted at a very early date. The question regarding the utilization in a greater degree of the revenues from tolls for the maintenance of roads is under the consideration of Government.

9. *Miscellaneous Public Improvements*.—A sum of Rs. 74,090 was incurred under this head on original works. The works carried out were—Sanitary improvements to Shimoga town, electrifying the pumping plant of the Chamarajendra Water Works, laying a system of pipes for improving water supply to high level bungalows and Mansions in Mysore City, effecting immediate improvements in the existing water supply of Mysore City, and constructing a Canopy over the Statue of His Highness the late Maharaja.

10. *Departmental Works*.—A sum of Rs. 4,948 was spent on original works connected with the University, Rs. 20,633 on the construction and improvement of Elementary School buildings, and Rs. 14,131 on buildings of the Military Department. There was a lapse of Rs. 12,573 under Mysore University Fund, which has not been explained.

The lapse in the case of grants for Elementary Schools was Rs. 15,125, which is reported to be due to causes, such as, want of sanction, non-settlement of sites, failure of contractors, etc. It is expected that such reasons will not be permitted to stand in the way of proper progress of works in future.

11. *Contribution Works*.—An expenditure of Rs. 2,19,540 was incurred during the year on account of these works, which were carried out by the Public Works Department from Muzrai and Municipal Funds, grants from the Government of India and contributions from private parties and raiyats.

12. *District Funds.*—The sanctioned grant for the year was Rs. 6,18,222 and the outlay incurred was Rs. 5,68,720, resulting in a lapse of Rs. 49,502 which occurred mainly in the Shimoga and Hassan Districts. The lapse in the Shimoga District is attributed to scarcity of labour and late submission of bills for works executed. The important works carried out were (1) improving the Srinivasapur-Punganur road, (2) opening a new road from Amruthur to Huliurdurg, (3) construction of the bridge across the Hemavathi near Gorur, (4) improving the Arsikere-Huliur road, and (5) opening a new road from Channagiri to Sivane.

The total length of the District Fund roads maintained during the year was 3,569 miles.

13. *Irrigation Cess Fund.*—A sum of Rs. 2,93,193 was expended on the repair and maintenance of major tanks, as also on the annual maintenance of, and special repairs to, the river channels in the Mysore and Hassan Districts.

14. *Vani Vilas Sagara.*—The total area under block system is 12,371 acres as against 12,361 acres during the previous year. The report of the Committee on the possibilities of improving irrigation and revenue under the lake is engaging the consideration of Government.

15. *Minor Tank Restoration Scheme.*—The grant allotted for this purpose was devoted mainly to the completion of works in progress and left unfinished by the Marahmat Department. Out of 304 works under execution during the year, 68 works were completed. The total outlay incurred was Rs. 66,728 against the allotment of Rs. 87,000. Government regret to note that there was such a heavy lapse, which is attributed to estimates not having been properly prepared by the Marahmat Department necessitating revision in several cases, prevalence of cholera and other epidemics, want of rain for turfing, etc.

By the passing of the Minor Tank Restoration Regulation in September 1923 which makes the levy of contribution from raiyats compulsory, the Department is now free to proceed with the work as soon as the estimate is sanctioned without waiting for recovery of contribution. It is hoped that better progress will be achieved during the current year and a large number of the incomplete works in progress will be brought to completion.

16. *Establishment.*—The charges under establishment including travelling allowance and contingencies amounted to Rs. 8,97,736. The percentage which the establishment charges bear to outlay on works and repairs was 26.6 per cent against 28 per cent during the previous year. The proportion will have been still less but for the curtailment of grants for works due to financial stringency, and also for the fact that the pay and furlough allowances of some of the officers who were retired consequent on the Reorganization of the Department, were debited to this head during the year.

17. *Touring and Inspection.*—The Chief Engineer, Mr. Bhore, was 136 days on tour and travelled 4,249 miles by road and inspected 6 Division Offices. Mr. K. R. Seshachar, who was Officiating Chief Engineer for Roads and Buildings from July to November 1923, travelled over 1,604 miles of roads and was 60 days on tour. Mr. H. D. Rice, Chief Engineer for Roads and Buildings, travelled over 993 miles of roads between the months of November 1923 to February 1924 and was 45 days on tour.

Out of 11 Division Offices and 34 Sub-Division Offices, 7 Division Offices and 32 Sub-Division Offices were inspected by the Executive Engineers. The non-inspection of the Division Offices by the Executive Engineers of Mysore, Kolar, Shimoga and Mysore Special Divisions requires explanation. The Chief Engineer is requested to impress upon all officers the importance of office inspections and to see that the instructions laid down in Government Order No. G. 10870-10918—E. A. 43-14-1, dated 10th April 1915, regarding the inspection of offices receive more careful attention in future on the part of the officers concerned.

18. *Flood Damages.*—Due to abnormal rainfall during the months of July and August 1923, certain works in the Districts of Kadur, Shimoga, Hassan and Mysore sustained damage. Estimates for Rs. 54,000 and Rs. 94,270 were sanctioned for making good the damage caused to irrigation works and roads and buildings, the actual outlay incurred being Rs. 46,365 and Rs. 70,323, respectively. Constant and timely attention on the part of the officers concerned enabled the works being completed before the close of the year.

19. *Relief Works.*—Owing to adverse seasonal conditions, relief measures, such as, tank maintenance and road works, were undertaken in the Districts of Kolar, Tumkur, Bangalore and Mysore. The expenditure incurred in these Districts was Rs. 33,544, Rs. 50,255, Rs. 596 and Rs. 2,658 respectively.

20. *Viceregal Visit Works.*—Works costing Rs. 1,33,592 were carried out in connection with the Visit of His Excellency the Viceroy at Mysore, Karapur, Seringapatam, etc.

21. *General Remarks.*—The responsibilities of the Public Works Department in regard to the construction, maintenance, repairs, etc., of Educational buildings in the State were defined in Government Order No. E. 4106-10—Edn. 48-23-25, dated 1st March 1924.

Orders were issued in Government Order No. 1629-33—Muz. 128-23-8, dated 8th May 1924, directing the waiving of establishment and tools and plant charges on Muzrai works carried out from State Funds and the levy of $10\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on works carried out from Institution funds and private contribution.

Certain changes were ordered in the system of accounts introduced recently in the Department, specially with reference to payment of salaries to subordinates.

The question of the revision of Schedule of Rates has been long pending, and in view of its importance, more energetic handling of the matter is necessary, and the Chief Engineer is requested to collect necessary data without delay and submit suitable proposals for the orders of Government at a very early date.

As Government had occasion to observe frequently irregularities in the preparation of estimates and revised estimates, the long period taken to complete works of every description, the laxity in the system of contracts and the unmethodical manner in which works were being carried out, detailed instructions were issued for the guidance of Divisional Officers in the matter. Government trust that close adherence to these instructions are being insisted on and desire that the Chief Engineer will state in the next report to what extent these instructions have been given effect to.

Government note with satisfaction the prompt and energetic action taken by the officers concerned in the execution of distress relief works and in rectifying the damage caused to works due to abnormal rainfall.

Although the administration of the department showed some improvement during the year, some of the old defects continued to render the execution of public works inefficient. These were careless preparation of estimates necessitating revised estimates in a large number of cases, delay in the completion of works and closing of accounts and inadequate supervision on the part of local officers over expenditure resulting in large lapses under the major heads of expenditure.

Government have issued revised instructions relating both to procedure as well as general administration recently and it is hoped that the Chief Engineer will take special care to see that these are strictly adhered to.

K. R. SESHACHAR,
Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department.

Administration Report of the Electrical Department.

READ—

Letter No. 2529, dated 13th October 1924, from the Chief Electrical Engineer, submitting the Administration Report of the Electrical Department for the year 1923-24.

2. Correspondence ending with Memo No. 755—C. P. S., dated 23rd December 1924 from the Comptroller of Mysore, returning the report after verifying the figured statements.

ORDER No. E. D. S. 2617-22, dated 2ND MARCH 1925.

Recorded.